Docket No. 5411

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

In re Application of

WILLIAM V. GOODHUE ET AL — APPEAL No.

U.S. Serial No. 09/877,036 — Group Art Unit 3723

Filed: June 11, 2001 — Examiner: J. Smith

SCREW GUN

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is the Appeal Brief in the above-identified application.

X Appeal Brief fee enclosed of $165.00 /~~$330.00~~.
X Small entity status of this application has been established.

___ This Appeal Brief is being filed within the period set for filing.

X Appellant(s) hereby petition for an extension for filing this Appeal Brief as follows:

___	First-Month Extension.....	$ 55.00	$ 110.00
X	Second-Month Extension.....	$ 210.00	$ ~~420.00~~
___	Third-Month Extension.....	$ 475.00	$ 950.00
___	Fourth-Month Extension.....	$ 740.00	$ 1480.00

A check in the amount of $ 375.00 is attached hereto.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-3690 of the undersigned attorney. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

01/16/2004 EFLORES 00000090 09877036
02 FC:2252 210.00 OP

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney of Record, Reg. No. 32,103

Date: January 15, 2004

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5411/tat "PATENT APPLICATION"

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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WILLIAM V. GOODHUE ET AL

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SCREW GUN

APPEAL No.

Group Art Unit 3723

J. Smith, Examiner

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Alexandria, Virginia
January 15, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

B R I E F O N A P P E A L

Dear Sir:

This appeal is from the action of the Primary Examiner in finally rejecting claims 1-14, 16-31 and 68-93.

Appellants' brief fee of $165 is attached. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-3690 of the undersigned attorney.

Real Party in Interest

The named inventors of the captioned application have assigned their entire rights to Davicorp, Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Texas, located in Spicewood, Texas.

Related Appeals and Interferences

No appeal or interference is known to appellants which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this pending appeal.

Status of Claims

The claims pending in this application are claims 1-14, 16-31 and 68-93.

The application as originally filed contained claims 1-68. Claims 8, 17 an 26 were amended by Amendment dated December 9, 2002. Claims 15 and 32-67 were canceled; claims 1, 3, 12, 14, 22 and 28 were amended; claim 17 was further amended, and claims 69-93 were added by Amendment dated May 15, 2003. Accordingly, the appealed claims are 1-14, 16-31 and 68-93 as set forth in the Appendix hereto.

Status of Amendments

No response was made to the final Office Action mailed June 13, 2003.

Summary of Invention

The invention relates to a screw gun having a driving unit fitted with a slidable cartridge holder adapted for receiving and indexing a separate cartridge containing a

plurality of fasteners, including screws (hereafter referred to as "screws"). The invention further relates to the replaceable cartridge containing the plurality of screws for use in a screw gun. See specification, page 1.

There is a need in industry for a screw gun which can load and insert a plurality of screws without a worker having to individually handle each screw. Specifically, for example, in the heating, ventilating and air conditioning ("HVAC") industry, hex-head self-tapping screws with integral washers, sometimes known as "tech screws", are used for connecting adjacent sections of sheet metal duct. A majority of the time, the task of connecting these adjacent sections of sheet metal duct occurs on lifts and in confined spaces. An HVAC worker will insert anywhere from about 2 to 10 screws per duct joint. The present method used by the HVAC worker to insert a tech screw involves the use of a drill with magnetic hex socket in the drill chuck and an apron full of tech screws. The HVAC worker must pick up an individual tech screw from his apron. He then by hand places the screw into the hex socket, and then inserts the screw through the sections of duct. It is estimated that up to 30% of the screws intended to be inserted into sheet metal duct sections are dropped and lost by the worker as he or she attempts to hand place a screw in the hex socket. Thus, the present method is laborious, slow and costly.

Accordingly, there is a need in industry for a lightweight, portable screw gun that will increase the productivity of workers and decrease costs associated with the time consuming manual insertion of screws in the gun and the cost associated with lost screws. See specification, pages 2-3.

Screw guns for feeding and locating screws for insertion into a workpiece are generally known in the art. However, these designs are not practical as they are overly complex and, therefore, costly, and they are bulky and not easy to use, especially when working in confined spaces. The present invention solves the problems of the prior art devices. See specification, page 3.

The present invention provides a screw gun capable of carrying a number of screws in an easily loadable and removable cartridge, thereby allowing a worker the ability to insert multiple screws in a workpiece without ever having to handle the individual screws. It provides for a screw gun having a driver and guide post with a cartridge holder slidably arranged thereon for carrying a rotatable cartridge containing a multiplicity of screws. The screw gun components cooperate with the cartridge for quickly and efficiently locating the screws on the driver for subsequent insertion into a workpiece. The screw gun further includes a cartridge holder which will automatically align a cartridge containing a multiplicity of screws so that a

worker can easily and quickly change the cartridge in the screw gun. The cartridge upon insertion into the gun will automatically be aligned for locating and loading a screw. See specification, pages 5 and 6.

The screw gun of the present invention comprises a driving unit; an elongated driver for receiving a screw; a guide post connected to the driving unit and having a cam path; a cartridge holder slidably mounted on the guide post in cooperation with the cam path of the guide post, and a cartridge carrying a multiplicity of screws. In operation, the screw cartridge is inserted into the cartridge holder of the gun and it is automatically aligned so that a chamber of the cartridge is in alignment with the driver of the gun. A screw is loaded from the cartridge to the driver by pump action, i.e., the cartridge holder is manually moved inward toward the gun to load a screw into the driver and for subsequent insertion into a workpiece. The cartridge holder includes a cam follower which moves in cooperation with the cam path on the guide post. The inward movement of the cartridge holder causes an indexing mechanism in the cartridge holder to be in position, or "cocked", to index the next chamber of the cartridge with the driver when the cartridge holder is thereafter pumped outward after insertion of the screw. Thus, after a screw is inserted, the cartridge holder is moved outward which, at the end of

the outward stroke, causes the cocked indexing mechanism to rotate the cartridge such that the next screw is in alignment with the driver. The pump action of the screw gun may be replaced by an automated system such as using a spring means connected to the cartridge holder and the driver to allow the cartridge holder to automatically return to the outer end of the driver after insertion of a screw. See specification, pages 7 and 8.

The Issues

The issues of the present appeal are:

A. whether claims 2-14, 16-31 and 69-93 are definite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

B. whether claims 1 and 68 are anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 3,930,297 (Potucek et al) or U.S. Patent No. 4,367,837 (Manino).

Grouping of Claims

The claims will be argued in groups as follows:

1. Claims 2-14 under the first §112 rejection.
2. Claims 16-23 under the first §112 rejection.
3. Claims 24-31 under the first §112 rejection.
4. Claims 2-31 under the second §112 rejection.
5. Claims 69-93 under the second §112 rejection.
6. Claims 1 and 68 under the §102(b) rejection.

Applicants will argue the claims according to the rejections as made by the examiner. The claims do not stand or fall together.

Argument

A. The §112 Rejections

Claims 2-14, 16-31 and 69-93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Specifically, in finally rejecting the claims the examiner states:

> Claims 2-14, 16-31 and 69-93 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
>
> Claim 1, from which the above claims depend, recites that the cartridge holder is "constructed to receive **a cartridge**" (emphasis added), thus claim 1 lists the specific function of the cartridge holder as receiving **a cartridge**. Claims 2, 16 and 23 recite "a cartridge" again thus these claims imply that there is **another cartridge that is received in the holder**. This is clearly contrary to the specification, thus rendering claims 2-13 and 16-31 indefinite.
>
> Also, claims 1 and 69 are to a screw gun "for driving a fastening means" and applicants argue that the fastening means is not part of the invention. Claims 10, 11, 13, 26, 29-31, 77, 78, 91 and 92 recite only structure of the fastening means, thus it is confusing as to how the screw gun of claims 1 and 69 can be used to drive a fastening means and also include a fastening means at the same time as required by these claims. Also, other claims, e.g. claims 26 and 89, recite "a fastener", which appears to be different than the "fastening means" already recited. (emphasis original) June 13, 2003 Office Action.

Accordingly, the examiner's §112 rejection can be grouped as follows:

(1) Claims 2-13 and 16-31 are allegedly indefinite because they imply that there are two cartridges in the holder which is contrary to the specification (hereafter the "Cartridge Rejection");

(2) Certain of the claims, apparently claims 10-14, 28-31 and 69-93, are allegedly indefinite because it is confusing how the screw gun of claims 1 and 69 can be used to drive a fastening means and also include a fastening means at the same time as required by claims 10-14, 28-31 and 69-93 (hereafter the "Fastening Means Rejection").

1. The Law of §112, Second Paragraph, And Summary of Argument

In considering a rejection under §112, second paragraph, one must start with the claim language. The claim language is read in conjunction with the specification. Further, the requirement that the claims "particularly point[ ] out and distinctly claim[ ]" the invention is met when a person experienced in the field of the invention would understand the scope of the subject matter that is patented when the claim is read in conjunction with the rest of the specification. See S3 Inc. v. nVIDIA Corp., 59 USPQ2d 1745, 1747 (Fed. Cir. 2001). If the claims when read in light of the specification

reasonably apprise those skilled in the art of the scope of the invention, §112 demands no more. Id.

For the reasons discussed hereafter, claims 2-14, 16-31 and 69-93 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as their invention. Based on the claim language, including when read in light of the specification, the claim language is clear that claim 1 does not claim a cartridge and that certain of the dependent claims claim the cartridge. Thus, there is no implication from the claims that two cartridges are claimed, especially when the claims are read in light of the specification. The Cartridge Rejection is in error and should be reversed.

Additionally, the Fastening Means Rejection is in error as the preamble of claims 1 and 69 are clear that the purpose of the screw gun is for driving a fastening means and certain of the dependent claims claim the fastening means and structure therefor. The Fastening Means Rejection should be reversed.

2. The Cartridge Rejection

The examiner's rejection of claims 2-14 and 16-31 because they imply that there is another cartridge is without factual or legal basis based on the plain meaning of the claim language and when read in light of the

specification. Specifically, the specification describes the invention generally as follows:

> The screw gun of the present invention comprises a driving unit; an elongated driver for receiving a fastener such as a screw; a guide post connected to the driving unit and having a cam path; a cartridge holder slidably mounted on the guide post in cooperation with the cam path of the guide post, and a cartridge carrying a multiplicity of fasteners ... [page 7, lines 8-14]
>
> * * *
>
> The screw gun 8 generally comprises a driving unit 10 having a cover plate 12, a driver 14, a guide post 16, a cartridge holder 18 and a cartridge 20. The cartridge holder 18 is slidably affixed to guide post 16 and adapted to align and index the cartridge 20 which contains a plurality of chambers 22 for retaining screws 24. The screws 24 are loaded on the driver 14 by means of a pump action of cartridge holder 18 along a cam path 80 on guide post 16 ... [page 15, lines 13-21]

These primary components of the screw gun are thereafter specifically defined in the specification in relation to each other. There are a number of inventions defined and claimed in the application including, but not limited to, the screw gun as a whole; the screw gun as it relates to the cartridge holder; the screw gun as it relates to the cartridge holder and the cartridge, and the cartridge.

Claim 1 calls for a screw gun for driving a fastening means comprising a driving unit (see, e.g., Figure 1, numeral 10 and specification page 16, lines 5-7) having a driver (see, e.g., Figure 2, numeral 14 and specification page 16, lines 7-11) and a guide post (see, e.g., Figure 2,

numeral 16 and specification page 17, lines 1-3) connected thereto. The claim further requires a camming means located on the guide post (see, e.g., Figure 2, numeral 80 and specification page 17, lines 7-11). The claim further calls for a cartridge holder slidably affixed to the guide post (see, e.g., Figure 2, numeral 18 and specification page 17, lines 22-24). The cartridge holder is constructed to support a cartridge (see, e.g, specification page 19, lines 4-5). The camming means is constructed and arranged to cooperate with the cartridge holder to index the cartridge when supplied to the cartridge holder. The cartridge is not claimed in claim 1. Claim 1 is admittedly definite.

Claim 2 of the application depends from claim 1 and further includes a cartridge (see, e.g., Figure 2, numeral 20 and specification page 19, lines 4-5) rotatably supported by the cartridge holder. Accordingly, dependent claim 2 now calls for the screw gun of claim 1 including a cartridge.

The examiner argues in the Cartridge Rejection that:

> Claim 1, from which the above claims depend, recites that the cartridge holder is "constructed to receive **a cartridge**" (emphasis added), thus claim 1 lists the specific function of the cartridge holder as receiving **a cartridge**. Claims 2, 16 and 23 recite "a cartridge" again thus these claims imply that there is **another cartridge that is received in the holder**. This is clearly contrary to the specification, thus rendering claims 2-13 and 16-31 indefinite.

First, claim 1 does not claim that the cartridge holder is "constructed to receive a cartridge".[1] Thus, claim 1 is clear that a cartridge is not claimed. Rather, dependent claim 2 claims the screw gun of claim 1 further comprising a cartridge rotatably supported by the cartridge holder. The claims are clear on their face and fully understandable to one skilled in the art, especially when read in light of the specification. One skilled in the art would clearly understand that there is not "another cartridge" received in the cartridge holder. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 2 should be reversed.

Dependent claims 3-14 are further dependent from claim 2 or a claim dependent thereon. These claims are definite for the same reasons for claim 2 and the rejections thereof under §112 should be reversed.

The examiner's rejection of claims 16-23 under §112 because they claim "a cartridge" is not understood. These claims do not claim a cartridge. Rather, claim 16 further defines the cartridge holder of claim 1 as comprising "a housing having a front cover plate, a rear cover plate, and a pocket in said housing for receiving a cartridge having a plurality of fastening means." (emphasis

---

[1] This is the language in claim 1 as filed. Applicants submit that this language is definite. Notwithstanding, to further clarify the claim language applicants amended the claim language to state that the cartridge is "constructed to support a cartridge."

added). The claim does not claim the cartridge. It defines the cartridge holder as having a pocket for receiving a cartridge. Accordingly, since claim 1 is definite, claims 16-23 clearly are also definite. The rejection or claims 16-23 should be reversed.

Claim 23, like claim 2, claims the cartridge and the claims dependent thereon or therefrom further claim structure of the cartridge. These claims are definite for the same reasons as set forth for claims 2 and 3-14 as set forth above and the rejections thereof should be reversed.

3. The Fastener Rejection

In the §112 Fastening Means Rejection, the examiner states that:

> Also, claim 1 and 69 are to a screw gun "for driving a fastening means" and applicants argue that the fastening means is not part of the invention. Claims 10, 11, 13, 26, 29-31, 77, 78, 91 and 92 recite only structure of the fastening means, thus it is confusing as to how the screw gun of claim 1 and 69 can be used to drive a fastening means and also include a fastening means at the same time as required by these claims. Also, other claims, e.g. claims 26 and 89, recite "a fastener", which appears to be different than the "fastening means" already recited".

It is not clear which claims the examiner has rejected under §112 based on the Fastening Means Rejection. It appears that only claims 10-14, 28-31 and 69-93 are rejected based on this reasoning.

As stated above, applicants respectfully submit that claims 10-14 and 28-31 are definite with respect to the

fastening means. Specifically, the preamble of independent claim 1 calls for a "screw gun for driving a fastening means." The preamble, thus, states the purpose of the screw gun.

Claims 2-9 and 16-26 do not claim a fastening means and presumably are not rejected under §112.

Claims 10-14 and 28-31 specifically claim the fastening means in the cartridge. Accordingly, it is clear from the claims, including when read in light of the specification, that claim 1 claims a screw gun whose purpose is to drive a fastening means and claims 10-14 and 28-31 specifically claim the fastening means. One skilled in the art reading the claims, including in light of the specification, would clearly understand the invention being claimed. Section 112 demands no more. The rejection of these claims should be reversed.

Applicants added new claims 69-93 by Amendment dated May 15, 2003. The claims are not rejected under the Cartridge Rejection and are, therefore, presumably all rejected under the §112 Fastening Means Rejection. Claim 69 claims:

> A screw gun for driving a fastening means comprising:
>
> a driving unit having a driver and a guide post connected thereto,
>
> a camming means located on said guide post,

a cartridge holder slidably affixed to said guide post,

a cartridge rotatably supported by said cartridge holder, said cartridge containing a plurality of fastening means, wherein said camming means is constructed and arranged to cooperate with said cartridge holder to index said cartridge.

Claim 69, thus, claims the cartridge and the fastening means in the cartridge. It is not understood how claim 69 is not definite under §112, second paragraph, nor has the examiner so explained. The claims dependent thereon, claims 70-93, further define, among other things, the claimed fastening means. Specifically, claims 77, 78, 91 and 92 further define the fastening means. There is nothing unclear or inconsistent between independent claim 69 and these dependent claims.

Claims 70-76; 79-90, and 93 do not further define the fastener. These claims, therefore, are definite for the same reasons as claim 69.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 69-93 are definite, including when read in light of the specification, and respectfully request reversal of the §112 rejection thereof.

B. The §102(b) Rejection

The examiner has rejected claims 1 and 68 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Manino, U.S. 4,367,837 or Potucek et al, U.S. 3,930,297. 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is only applicable if the cited reference discloses

each and every element of the claimed invention. In this case, the references cited by the examiner do not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention of claims 1 and 68.

Manino discloses a tape magazine feed apparatus for head driven fasteners. Manino discloses a conventional hand held electric drill 12. It includes a yoke 14 to which a magazine 16 is connected. Magazine 16 is a cylindrical cup which carries a flexible tape 20 carrying a plurality of fasteners 22. Magazine 16 includes a slot 25 through which tape 20 is fed to a foot member 40. A drive rod 30 is attached to drill 30 for driving a fastener 22. The foot member 40 is mounted on the yoke 14 by spring loaded carrier rods 41 and 42. In operation, tape 20 with fasteners 22 is fed to foot member 40 for feeding to a drive channel 36 and forces it out of a nozzle 38 and into a workpiece. The Manino device is complex and does not disclose each and every element of claim 1 herein.

Specifically, claim 1 calls for a screw gun for driving a fastening means. The screw gun comprises a driving unit having a driver and a guidepost connected thereto. A camming means is located on the guide post. A cartridge holder is slidably affixed to the guidepost and constructed to support a cartridge. The camming means is constructed and arranged to cooperate with the cartridge

holder to index a cartridge when it is supplied to the cartridge holder. Manino does not include at least (1) a guidepost having a camming means, or (2) a cartridge holder slidably affixed to the guidepost and constructed to support a cartridge, or (3) the camming means which is constructed and arranged to cooperate with the cartridge holder to index the cartridge when supplied to the cartridge holder. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reversal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Manino.

Claim 68 is dependent on claim 1 and, accordingly, is not anticipated by Manino for the reasons set forth for claim 1.

Potucek et al discloses fastener feed apparatus and assembly. The Potucek et al device includes a driving tool 32 to feed individual fasteners 32 from a fastener strip 36. The driving tool 32 is a power screwdriver. It includes a bit 46 having a tip for engaging fastener 32. A base member 48 is mounted on the driving tool 32 to support the fastener feed assembly 30 in position on the tool. A nose assembly 50 is connected thereto and which includes a workpiece engaging surface 52 to be pressed against the workpiece. The fastener strip 36 is formed in a coil 70 and is supplied to the nose assembly 50 from a magazine 72. The nose assembly 50 includes a nose block 100 which is mounted

relative to the base member 48 by means of a slide member 102. A return spring 114 is held in compression between the base member 42 and nose block 100 in order to urge the nose block 100 toward its outermost position. The fastener strip 36 is fed through the nose assembly 50 for registration of the fasteners with the bit 46 by a feed path 124. The fastener strip 36 is inserted into feed path 124 to locate a fastener 34 in line with bit 46 on the nose assembly. The fastener driving operation is carried out when the nose assembly 50 is placed against a workpiece with the workpiece engaging surface 52 abutting the workpiece. The tool 32 is then pressed toward the workpiece to advance the bit 46 through an opening 122 in the nose block 100 to engage the bit with the fastener 34. The fastener is forced by the bit against the surface of the workpiece and the fastener is driven into the workpiece. The Potucek et al device is complex and does not disclose each and every element of claim 1 herein.

Specifically, claim 1 calls for a screw gun for driving a fastening means. The screw gun comprises a driving unit having a driver and a guidepost connected thereto. A camming means is located on the guide post. A cartridge holder is slidably affixed to the guidepost and constructed to support a cartridge. The camming means is constructed and arranged to cooperate with the cartridge

holder to index a cartridge when it is supplied to the cartridge holder. Potucek et al does not include at least (1) a guidepost having a camming means, or (2) a cartridge holder slidably affixed to the guidepost and constructed to support a cartridge, or (3) the camming means which is constructed and arranged to cooperate with the cartridge holder to index the cartridge when supplied to the cartridge holder. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reversal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Potucek et al.

Claim 68 is dependent on claim 1 and, accordingly, is not anticipated by Potucek et al for the reasons set forth for claim 1.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the appealed claims are patentable within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 112. Reversal of the examiner's rejections is, therefore, respectfully urged.

5411/USSN 09/877,036
Group Art Unit 3723

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM V. GOODHUE ET AL

By _____

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Attachment - Appendix

The Appealed Claims:

1. A screw gun for driving a fastening means comprising:

a driving unit having a driver and a guide post connected thereto,

a camming means located on said guide post,

a cartridge holder slidably affixed to said guide post and constructed to support a cartridge, and wherein said camming means is constructed and arranged to cooperate with said cartridge holder to index said cartridge when supplied to said cartridge holder.

2. A screw gun in accordance with claim 1 further comprising a cartridge rotatably supported by said cartridge holder.

3. A screw gun in accordance with claim 2 wherein said cartridge comprises a housing having a plurality of chambers for releasably holding fastening means and having a means for indexing said cartridge.

4. A screw gun in accordance with claim 3 wherein said indexing means further aligns said cartridge in said cartridge holder.

5. A screw gun in accordance with claim 3 wherein said indexing means comprises outwardly extending ribs between each of said chambers.

6. A screw gun in accordance with claim 5 wherein said chambers include a plurality of fingers for releasably holding said fastening means.

7. A screw gun in accordance with claim 6 wherein said fingers have a free end and a bound end.

8. A screw gun in accordance with claim 7 wherein said fingers include a first tapered portion and a second tapered portion constructed and arranged for holding said fastening means.

9. A screw gun in accordance with claim 8 wherein said fingers further include a groove between said first and second tapered portions.

10. A screw gun in accordance with claim 9 further including a plurality of fasteners in said cartridge.

11. A screw gun in accordance with claim 10 wherein said fasteners are hex-head screws.

12. A screw gun in accordance with claim 3 wherein said fastening means comprises a plurality of fasteners.

13. A screw gun in accordance with claim 12 wherein said fasteners are hex-head screws.

14. A screw gun in accordance with claim 13 wherein said driver includes a socket for mating with said hex-head screws.

16. A screw gun in accordance with claim 1 wherein said cartridge holder comprises a housing having a front cover plate, a rear cover plate, and a pocket in said

housing for receiving a cartridge having a plurality of fastening means.

17. A screw gun in accordance with claim 16 wherein said pocket further includes an inner pocket wall and said inner pocket wall having an indexing means connected thereto and constructed and arranged for communication with said camming means on said guide post.

18. A screw gun in accordance with claim 17 wherein said indexing means comprises a sleeve having a cam follower.

19. A screw gun in accordance with claim 17 wherein said indexing means comprises a sleeve having a cam follower, an oscillating plate and a cam plate.

20. A screw gun in accordance with claim 19 wherein said indexing means further includes a pawl means housed in said oscillating plate and a spring means constructed and arranged for controlling rotation of said oscillating plate.

21. A screw gun in accordance with claim 17 wherein said indexing means includes a pin means and a pawl means for automatically aligning said cartridge in said screw gun.

22. A screw gun in accordance with claim 17 wherein said indexing means comprises a sleeve through which said guide post passes, a cam follower which cooperates with said camming means of said guide post, and a pin means and a pawl means which extend through said inner pocket wall into said

pocket whereby said indexing means function to automatically align said cartridge and to index said cartridge.

23. A screw gun in accordance with claim 17 further comprising a cartridge rotatably supported by said cartridge holder.

24. A screw gun in accordance with claim 23 wherein said cartridge comprises a rotatable housing having a plurality of chambers for releasably holding a fastening means and having an outwardly extending rib between each of said chambers.

25. A screw gun in accordance with claim 24 wherein said chambers include a plurality of fingers for releasably holding said fastening means.

26. A screw gun in accordance with claim 25 wherein said fingers include a first tapered portion and a second tapered portion constructed and arranged for holding a fastener.

27. A screw gun in accordance with claim 26 further comprising a groove between said first and second tapered portions.

28. A screw gun in accordance with claim 27 wherein said fastening means comprises a plurality of fasteners.

29. A screw gun in accordance with claim 28 wherein said fasteners are hex-head screws.

30. A screw gun in accordance with claim 23 wherein said cartridge includes a plurality of fasteners.

31. A screw gun in accordance with claim 30 wherein said fasteners are hex-head screws.

68. A screw gun in accordance with claim 1 further comprising means for automatically sliding said cartridge holder on said guide post.

69. A screw gun for driving a fastening means comprising:

a driving unit having a driver and a guide post connected thereto,

a camming means located on said guide post,

a cartridge holder slidably affixed to said guide post,

a cartridge rotatably supported by said cartridge holder, said cartridge containing a plurality of fastening means, wherein said camming means is constructed and arranged to cooperate with said cartridge holder to index said cartridge.

70. A screw gun in accordance with claim 69 wherein said cartridge comprises a housing having a plurality of chambers for releasably holding said fastening means and having a means for indexing said cartridge.

71. A screw gun in accordance with claim 70 wherein said indexing means further aligns said cartridge in said cartridge holder.

72. A screw gun in accordance with claim 70 wherein said indexing means comprises outwardly extending ribs between each of said chambers.

73. A screw gun in accordance with claim 72 wherein said chambers include a plurality of fingers for releasably holding said fastening means.

74. A screw gun in accordance with claim 73 wherein said fingers have a free end and a bound end.

75. A screw gun in accordance with claim 74 wherein said fingers include a first tapered portion and a second tapered portion constructed and arranged for holding said fastening means.

76. A screw gun in accordance with claim 75 wherein said fingers further include a groove between said first and second tapered portions.

77. A screw gun in accordance with claim 69 wherein said fastening means are hex-head screws.

78. A screw gun in accordance with claim 76 wherein said fastening means are hex-head screws.

79. A screw gun in accordance with claim 78 wherein said driver includes a socket for mating with said hex-head screws.

80. A screw gun in accordance with claim 69 wherein said cartridge holder comprises a housing having a front cover plate, a rear cover plate, and a pocket in said housing for receiving said cartridge.

81. A screw gun in accordance with claim 80 wherein said pocket further includes an inner pocket wall and said inner pocket wall having an indexing means connected thereto

and constructed and arranged for communication with said camming means on said guide post.

82. A screw gun in accordance with claim 81 wherein said indexing means comprises a sleeve having a cam follower.

83. A screw gun in accordance with claim 81 wherein said indexing means comprises a sleeve having a cam follower, an oscillating plate and a cam plate.

84. A screw gun in accordance with claim 83 wherein said indexing means further includes a pawl means housed in said oscillating plate and a spring means constructed and arranged for controlling rotation of said oscillating plate.

85. A screw gun in accordance with claim 81 wherein said indexing means includes a pin means and a pawl means for automatically aligning said cartridge in said screw gun.

86. A screw gun in accordance with claim 81 wherein said indexing means comprises a sleeve through which said guide post passes, a cam follower which cooperates with said camming means of said guide post, and a pin means and a pawl means which extend through said inner pocket wall into said pocket whereby said indexing means function to automatically align said cartridge and to index said cartridge.

87. A screw gun in accordance with claim 81 wherein said cartridge comprises a housing having a plurality of chambers for releasably holding said fastening means and

having an outwardly extending rib between each of said chambers.

88. A screw gun in accordance with claim 87 wherein said chambers include a plurality of fingers for releasably holding said fastening means.

89. A screw gun in accordance with claim 88 wherein said fingers include a first tapered portion and a second tapered portion constructed and arranged for holding a fastener.

90. A screw gun in accordance with claim 89 further comprising a groove between said first and second tapered portions.

91. A screw gun in accordance with claim 90 wherein said fasteners are hex-head screws.

92. A screw gun in accordance with claim 69 wherein said fastening means are hex-head screws.

93. A screw gun in accordance with claim 69 further comprising means for automatically sliding said cartridge holder on said guide post.

* * * * *